THE A TO Z OF SP

- Hip And Cool New Facilities
- Open House & Engineering Show 2012
- Meet the SP Open House Buddies
- World Exposure: The Unique SP Overseas Experience
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ALEX NG
3rd Year ~ Diploma in Computer Engineering
Hello 😊

I believe you all had a great time during the last two to three months. The festivities came and went. Before you knew it, you are back to your final year projects, textbooks and lecture notes. When you read this, you are probably preparing hard for the exams. For some of you who are spared taking exams, your project works are equally important. The challenge is there – continue to keep in mind the aspiration that you are working towards and give your best shot. I wish you the best!

The beginning of the year is always an exciting one for SP as we organised the annual Open House. This time round, if you have seen the set-up around campus, I’m sure you would have been awed! We put up an impressive show for our visitors. But what’s more important is that a lot of it was made possible by you – the SP student. From designing the advertising campaign to organising tours to the schools, these were all conceptualised mainly by our students. We also rolled out a really awesome social media campaign that raked up thousands of fans to SP Facebook in just two months! I’m really moved by the Team Spirit shown by one and all who were involved. Clap! Clap! Clap! You deserve a big round of applause. Read about the Open House and Engineering Show from page 32.

We performed very well in this year’s Joint Admission Exercise. We made significant improvements in our recruitment drive across all disciplines, whether it’s the built environment, business, engineering, design, humanities, I.T., life sciences or maritime studies. I look forward to meeting the fresheries in April. I’m confident of giving our new friends a unique learning experience that they will treasure for life.

The SP learning experience has been significantly enhanced. Take a walk around the campus and you would easily notice the physical changes. More study spaces. Renovated lecture theatres. Awesome labs. New food outlets. You can expect more changes. Read all about these new developments in this issue.

Take advantage of the facilities that are specially built for you. I am confident that the conducive environment will stoke your passion further and help you realise your aspirations. And in the midst of chasing your dreams, always remember to prepare your heart to serve.

All the best!

Tan Hang Cheong
Principal
Singapore Polytechnic
Achieve Your Goals.
Transform Your Future.

Whichever your aspirations or ambitions are for the future, with SP, you can go further. If you’re an O-level holder intending to, or currently studying at a local Polytechnic, then why not sign up for our joint Poly-CFTE or Poly-SP scholarship? On top of having your tuition fees sponsored, you can achieve financial independence through monthly allowances, as well as study bursaries along the way. What’s more, upon graduation you’ll embark on a dynamic career that will make the most of your talents and skills, and develop you into a well-rounded individual.

To find out more, call 1800 OUR ARMY (687 2769) or visit armycareer.gov.sg

What A Difference!
SP like you have never seen before.

Airport SPELL
The real entrepreneurial experience.

Young Entrepreneurs
Let your blogs make money.

The Honours Roll
SP grads clinch university scholarships.
Did you check out our SP-EYE on aspirations.sg? We ran the SP-EYE contest between November to January where SP students submitted their visual takes of the SP campus. There was an amazing array of more than 900 pictures that were submitted.

I SP-Eye With My Eye…

From these entries, 20 were shortlisted as the best. We are proud to publish here the winning entries. It’s not all over yet. Do continue to submit your pictures using the Instagram app on iPhone, tag the location e.g. #speye #Moberly #caption and ta-dah! Your picture will appear on the SP-EYE virtual map.
If you have siblings or friends who graduated from SP a few years ago, they might not recognise the campus if they visit again. They would have thought that the Transformers came and gave the campus a major facelift! The 40-hectare campus, equivalent to about 40 football fields, has undergone major re-developments to offer an unbeatable learning environment.

Gardens have morphed into learning spaces using sustainable technology. Lecture theatres are retrofitted with new comfy seats and ambient lightings. Pockets of learning and interaction spaces are so well spruced up that students are spending longer hours in campus.

These pictures will tell you why.

**ECOASIS**
The ECOasis is designed as an integrated ecological system which simulates water collection, filtration, retention and recycling. Located next to SP’s Foodcourt 2 and the newly-renovated Concourse study hall, this new park-and-pond in SP brings nature closer to the students.

**SANCTUARY**
The design concept for the Sanctuary provides students with a natural study environment that comes with a butterfly habitat. The iconic showpiece is shaped like a snail and the study pavilions take the shape of leaves. Railway tracks are recycled into decorative stepping boards and nectar plants are specially selected to attract butterflies to the park.

**LECTURE THEATRES**
Colour co-ordinated seats, ambient lightings and latest audio-visual equipment will give our students a comfortable environment that will stimulate learning.

**SIT- STUDENT HUB**
Hold your breath for the completion of the AeroHub and the new Business School located just steps away from the MRT. It will boast the latest facilities for aeronautical and aerospace students as well as house avant garde learning facilities for Business students.

**SPECTRUM**
Older study areas are given a new lease of life with a complete makeovers, such as The Spectrum. Located next to McDonald’s and adjacent to the MRT, it is now one of the most popular SP hotspots.

**SIT - STUDENT HUB**
The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will set up a satellite campus in SP to conduct specialised degree courses hosted by SP. So if you love SP so much, there’s now another reason to enrol in the degree programmes offered by SIT. Right next to it is a new Student Hub which will be the focal point for all SP students in the pursuits of their passions, be it music, arts or sports.

**DA VINCI FLOOR @ MAIN LIBRARY**
This is SP Library’s latest learning space on the fourth level. This awesome floor is inspired by the famed Italian Renaissance polymath who is known to have an “unquenchable curiosity”.

There’s even a ‘Harry Potter Corner’, featuring sliding book ladders and floor-to-ceiling shelves a la Hogwarts style. We are sure this place would become another popular hideout for the bookwormish! Check out the really cool furniture!
As the first polytechnic in Singapore which has produced 165,000 graduates, SP knows what can motivate students’ learning. Learning facilities are important to inspire and motivate thinking. There has been no let up to continuing investing in new facilities, whether it’s building new facilities, renovate existing ones or create new learning spaces. From 2012, students enrolled in SP Business School, School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences and School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology will boast new ultra-cool facilities. SP takes a peek at some of them.

THE AGENCY
Students taking the Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) will experience the pulse and pace of a real-life integrated marketing communication agency here. The Agency boasts specially-configured furniture for brainstorming and meetings, a pitch room for client presentations, and studios for creating audio and video collaterals.

THE WRITERS’ ROOM
This is the new playground for those in the Diploma in Creative Writing for Television and New Media (DTVM) course. In The Writers’ Room, mobile furniture replaces conventional tables and chairs. Stack blocks to make your own ‘fortress’ - the possibilities are as endless as your imagination.
**The M.A.D. Studios**
The M.A.D. (Media-Art-Design) Studios is a cluster of home-based, fully-equipped production studios that will provide students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology with a personalised workspace for sculpting, production design, animation and visual effects classes. It truly simulates a real-world production pipeline that calls for unbounded creativity.

**The Visual Effects Studio**
If you aspire to be the next Steven Spielberg, check out the Visual Effects Studio. This is a sound-proof professional movie studio that will let you develop Stereoscopic 3D/2D video production works, multi-camera live production and live video streaming. It boasts an impressive green screen cyclorama and a full-length Chromatte backdrop that can be used for live chroma-keying.

**Business Innovation & Design Studio**
This studio will inspire you, the future entrepreneur, to think up successful business innovations. The state-of-the-art facilities will showcase SP Business School’s pioneer and premier status in this exciting field of business design, design thinking process and innovations.

SP Business School also boasts advanced facilities like the UOB Kay Hian-SP Dealing Centre, the Hospitality Learning Hub and a Havard-style classroom. The Dealing Centre is the only one in the poly-tertiary educational scene where you will learn on-line real-time financial information from Thomson Reuters and simulation software which will power-up your aspirations. The Hospitality Learning Hub features the sophisticated Opera computer hotel reservations system complete with tastefully-designed dining layout and décor to develop our students into polished graduates for the hospitality industry.

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Global Orientation

Every SP student has the opportunity to travel overseas to broaden their horizons and gain new perspectives that take them closer to their aspirations. 

Who: Lincoln Benjamin Yeo and Boey Choo Siong, Final Year students, Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering

What: Six-week attachment at the Pratt & Whitney Training Centre

Where: Beijing, China

Lincoln says:

The Beijing internship with Pratt & Whitney was amazing. There we were, at the training centre of the world’s biggest aircraft engine maker. It was the closest that any aeronautical engineering student could get to a real plane engine. We learned about repair and maintenance of aircraft engines and practised on the real stuff – a P&W 4000 series engine for Boeing planes. I’m aspiring to be a pilot and this training is certainly a big plus towards my dream. The people at P&W Beijing were really nice. There were 30 of us there and when our birthdays fell during the six-week period, they would get a cake and celebrate with us! This is a privilege that only SP aeronautical students get 🤩. And oh yes, it was a wonderful opportunity for me to practise my dusty Mandarin!
Where:

Says Patrick Tay Yan Sheng, Final Year, Diploma in Biomedical Science and a member of the SP SIFE Team 2011:

The SIFE journey has opened my eyes to the world of social enterprise. I might not get this experience anywhere else if I did not join SP. You would never realise the amount of impact and change you can bring to others through the simple means of setting up a system for them, teaching them the necessary skills and thereafter letting them run everything on their own. Being exposed to other countries was a priceless experience. I begin to realise that going out of Singapore makes the world seem smaller.

I benefited from being exposed to entirely different backgrounds and learning and applying what I’ve learnt in school to help the communities.

Who:

Hei Kern says:

Because Robocon is an international competition where we were put into groups with people from various nationalities, our approaches to solve problems were slightly different. With two years of Robocon, I got to work and network with the world’s future engineers! In our globalised world, being able to work with an international team is of paramount importance; a skill which I am lucky to have gained through two Robocons. Even till this day, I keep in contact with my Robocon teams mates. One of them from China is currently pursuing his Master’s in Japan! Who knows maybe I would be able to work with them on projects in the future.

What:

Says Vaishnavi Naik, Second Year, Diploma in Business Information Technology and a member of SP SIFE Team 2011:

The SIFE experience has opened my eyes to a world of opportunities that is within our grasp to make the earth we live in a better place. The journey has made healing my own social enterprise or at the very least, being part of one one of my future ambitions.

I hope to be a research design engineer in future. I believe future products will be based on technical innovations and good designs. I would really love to study in SUTD as it would provide me with exactly the kind of education I need to fulfil my dreams. I have a particular interest in transportation. I feel that current transportation methods have much room for improvements and I would want to be the change that makes future transport, faster, safer and more efficient, not to mention greener!

Says Leong Hei Kern, Second Year, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering:

Robocon is an annual overseas robotics competition organised by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Tokyo Institute of Technology. It was held in Shanghai last year and this year in MIT. Boston. Hei Kern was the only poly student among the Singapore team.

It’s hard to put into words how these overseas experiences have benifited me. There is nothing like experiencing it yourself. Trust me, you will never regret an overseas trip with SP!!

Participate in SIFE World Cup Finals 2008, 2009 and 2011.

WHERE:


SP SIFE Team

(Students in Free Enterprise) Team

SIFE stands for Students in Free Enterprise. It is an international non-profit organisation that works with business leaders and tertiary institutions to engage students in social enterprise projects and nurture them into socially responsible leaders.

The SP SIFE Team scored victories at the SIFE Singapore Competition in 2008, 2009 and 2011. It gave them participation rights in the SIFE World Cup held in Singapore, Berlin and Kuala Lumpur respectively.

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Possible destinations:

In 2011 the SP SIFE Team initiated revenue-generating activities for an organisation to help orphans.

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SP’s Architecture students have read from textbooks about the Colosseum and the Piazza del Duomo, both famous architectural landmarks in Italy. But seeing the real thing was an awesome experience and definitely one of the highlights of this overseas learning trip.

Jawara Alba says:
Now I know that buildings there are designed closed-up because of the cold weather whereas in Singapore we need more ventilation. The Italians are good in aesthetics and their suburbs are prettier though they are mostly only five-storey high. It’s not possible to hand-craft the entire side of a 20-storey building in Singapore.

Jemima Poh says:
Italy has a long history but Singapore is just half a century old. We try to mass produce buildings to meet accommodation needs but the Italians aligned their designs to their culture. We are monotonous though contemporary and inclined to having renowned architects on our projects. Things are a little dreamy in Italy. Their modern buildings blend in nicely with their older buildings and don’t stick out like sore thumbs.

Darren Ong says:
We also visited Microsoft. I asked if the staff are allowed to carry iPhones. The answer was “Yes, but the boss wouldn’t be too happy”. We found out that the Xbox Kinect was developed there. There was also a gallery that showcased all the PC technology – from the first computer, the old phones to the latest. The trip has given me a lot of ideas on how to start my business. When I returned, I actually started writing out my business plan.

Darren, an avid uni-cyclist, already has plans to start his own business.
Jonathan Tan Ze Sheng, SP Scholar and Graduate from the Class of 2011, diploma in mechanical engineering

What: Worldskills Competition 2011 where he won a Medal

Where: London, United Kingdom

The peak was definitely standing on stage to receive the medal, the overwhelming feeling of seeing the fruit of my labour paying off. It was indescribable. I’m now doing national service, and plan to take up the DSTA Overseas Scholarship offer and study at Cambridge University.

I joined SP under the DPA (Direct Polytechnic Admission) Programme and was introduced to Mr Leong Teng Boon, who became my WorldSkills coach. He showed me different engineering drawings they captivated my attention. Honestly, I never thought of making it this far and bringing home a medal from an international competition.

“I took part in the Mechanical Engineering Design – CAD category and won a Silver Medal. I trained for this for three years. Winning the Gold Medal at the local leg was a big confidence booster. It was an amazing feeling to be able to compete at my age on the international arena with more than 1,000 competitors. It’s definitely something I’m very proud of. At the same time, it was an eye-opening experience to see so many like-minded youths competing together. The high level of skills in this competition could literally blow off your mind.

Jonathan says:

WHO: Jang Se Eun, Final Year student from the Diploma in Biotechnology
WHAT: Six-weeks overseas industrial attachment programme
WHERE: Seoul Women’s University, Seoul, South Korea

Se Eun says:

This internship is memorable to me because I sourced for it myself. I was looking for an international exposure in life sciences; and since I’m from Korea, so why not return home for this one in a lifetime experience? It wasn’t an easy task. I had to contact several universities before getting a place in the laboratory. But the experience was worth the trouble.

“I was attached to the Seoul Women’s University’s Biotechnology department and participated in their therapeutic research project to differentiate stem cells for curing diabetic patients. I also conducted tests on rats to evaluate the effectiveness of research drugs. The lab experience was invaluable and amazing as I also learned new techniques and approaches in life science research works. That was not all. I also had to review scientific journals and gave a presentation to the heads and professors from my lab in Korean!

“My parting gift was a special lab-coat from a professor. I’m feel really proud each time I put it on.

Se Eun is also the Captain of SP’s Women Volleyball team and has led her team to championship at this year’s POL-ITE Games. Her sporting genes are probably inherited from her father, Jang Jung, who was a famous footballer playing for the Singapore team during the 90s.

Se Eun says:

Interview by Shamus Lee, Diploma in Biotechnology.

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We were able to speak with course director, David Phillips and Head of Marketing and Admissions, Jamie Hobson. David showed us their students' past works and gave a quick tour around the campus. Through our dialogue, we also gained valuable insights on the design industry outside of Singapore.

Tate Modern was arguably one of the most riveting visits in our trip. We were able to view iconic works by Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. We are pretty sure that everyone went back inspired and with a wider knowledge of various art movements, from Cubism to Minimalism.

We were given a rare opportunity to visit one of London’s most iconic advertising agencies, and it did not let us down. Alex West, Head of Talent & Partnership at Mother gave us a guided tour of the agency and a run down on their most successful advertising campaigns and the attitude they adopt, that has led to their overwhelming success.

Every 3-4 weeks, their seating arrangements are shuffled around on a massive table and no one has an exclusive office to his or herself. This simple idea has led to good communication and exposure between colleagues.

“We don’t have barriers. Even if you’re in finance or illustration, the ambition is all the same; to get good work out.”

- Alex West
Head of Talent & Partnership, Mother London

If only we had more time to soak up all the creative juices of Nobrow. We all had a great experience leafing through their publications and it had all in all, a different kind of takeaway. Down at the basement of Nobrow, lies Ben Newman’s solo exhibition, “Masks”. Inspired by ceremonial masks, it is a series of tactile illustrations and vivid prints combined with 3D pieces of geometric masks. In a culture where modern art and design thrives, Ben’s work showed us that tradition can be as powerful and stimulating when shown in a different perspective.

Contact us on facebook.com/TSASingPoly
www.youtube.com/user/TheStudentAgency

The London Design Festival was the main event of our entire trip, and its takeaways were bountiful.

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The typical timetable is not chock-a-block that leaves you breathless. There are the occasional breaks to let you recharge yourself on campus after lectures. There are no classes on Wednesday afternoons. So, you can chill-out, play tennis or loosen up yourself jamming in the studio. For longer breaks, look out for the mid-semester breaks and vacations! Nothing beats a well-deserved break.

You are studying at the first polytechnic in Singapore. Being the oldest poly doesn’t make it less hip. In fact, it is a very happening place. Step into the Dover Road campus and you will be awed by its lush greenery and awe-inspiring learning and social spaces. The makeover is not just cosmetic. It goes beyond the physical to transform the way we teach and learn.

Story by Nicholas Lam, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media
Shamus Lee, Diploma in Biotechnology

For those of you who are new, you might just find SP a maze. Fret not. SP has an amazing suite of apps – SP Buzz on the latest happenings. SP Timetables to manage your lessons and exams. My personal favorite is the SP Cam. It provides live feeds of the human traffic at different hotspots in SP like the foodcourts! Cool ya! What’s more, they were developed by our very own students and staff. Way to go!

Ever heard of “Clubbing for Character?” Weird as it sounds, it’s probably true. SP believes sports, clubs, and societies complement your academic training. It will help you build character and live well. With more than 130 CCA Clubs, I’m sure you will find one that suits you. If not, march to the Department of Student Development office and tell them you want to start your own club. Just make sure you find enough buddies who share your interest. By the way, we have the best Cheerleading and Dragonboat teams among the polys. No joke, SP’s number one and we intend to stay on top.
Design Thinking

Design Thinking (DT) is a new, game-changing approach to teaching and learning. It’s meant to equip you to look at wicked problems with new eyes and to tap on your imagination to generate user-centric solutions. SP partnered the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, a world leader in Business Design, to train our lecturers. The team has since developed a new Diploma in Business Innovation & Design and introduced the tool to all SP students. Yippee!

Exercise

Let’s face it, many people think poly students are unfit. That’s why we rolled out the Sports for Life programme. But don’t worry, it’s not a run-of-the-mill PE lesson and we won’t ask you to run round the field five times. You can choose to take up golf, swimming, and even lessons in kick boxing. Cool, isn’t it? With a fully-equipped gym, Olympic-sized pool, exercise stations and many more opportunities to make sports a part of your life, you will be kept fit in mind, body and soul.

Internship

Poly education is not just about absorbing knowledge from textbooks. In SP, we offer authentic learning, meaning you will experience doing the real thing. You will create a new engineering invention. You may start and run a business. For scientific research, we even send out students to top universities like Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale to learn from world-renowned professors. This is how SP makes it possible. Really!

Journey

At SP, learning is not a routine but a journey. In your first year, SP meets you where you are – whether you are strong or struggling – to help you reach out and search for what motivates you. Acquire the passion to do and work will no longer be work but a joy. Once you hit second gear, stretch yourself. Dream and aspire to be the best you can be. When you hit third gear, life would be meaningless if there is no purpose. Challenge yourself to go beyond and serve with heart. Simply go M.A.D. and Make A Difference. By then, you would have grown from being a freshie to a confident and accomplished young adult ready to take on the world.

Knowledgeable Lecturers

SP has a pool of cool and dedicated lecturers. They are more than the Masters and PhD degrees they hold. What’s more important is they care - sometimes, more than you and I think. They seasoned their breath of knowledge with many years of experience to teach and spur you to acquire character, competence and chemistry. They will help you to become T-shaped – one who is versatile and demonstrate mastery in your chosen discipline. Besides giving you a listening ear, they are also fun-loving and you can even add them to your Facebook.

Facilities

Most of your classes are conducted either in the lecture theatres (LT) or classrooms. And now we even have a suite of studios on campus. Many of our LTs have been given a major facelift. Imagine a cinema with brighter lights! Pop by our libraries and study corners. Borrow Avatar DVD or Blue-ray and watch them with your friends. Alternatively, bond with your new found friends over a board game. Yes!

Green

Did you know that SP is the only tertiary institution to win the President’s Award for the Environment? Ahem! Indeed, we have one of the greenest campuses in Singapore. We have trees that are more than 100 years old and you can check them out via a Heritage Trail! Enjoy the new social spaces such as the Ecoasis and Sanctuary. They are there for you to rest, relax, chat or simply chill. Just remember to keep them clean ; ) 

Hungry

For those who live to eat and not eat to live, SP is your haven. With six food-courts, four cafes, one restaurant and even a School of Coffee, there’s no lack in variety to fill your growling tummy. The only poly to have a Starbucks is SP, and you get 10% discount some more. Burger King, Kentucky, McDonald’s, Subway, Ya Kun... we will continue to grow the list. Sorry if we make you burp during lectures.

Our two libraries are not just big rooms with rows and rows of books. At Colours in the Main Library, you can borrow the latest D’VOS, play board games or read up on the latest magazines while sipping your favourite drink from Hotshot Café. The Hilltop Library has cool and colourful furniture for you to study comfortably. Check up the newly renovated Da Vinci Floor at the Main Library.

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Originally built during the 1950s as an army barrack. This is the place where you can buy the signature SP tee! At Moberly, you can sing, you can dance, you can play, you can eat. The facilities are there for you to relax and recharge yourself! Pool tables, jamming rooms, karaoke rooms, Wii games, BBQ pits... all under one roof!

With a long history of almost 60 years, SP has the strongest network of more than 165,000 alumni. Our Alumni Relations Office organises regular events for you to learn from fellow alumni who have since become industry captains. Many of our alumni contribute actively. They believe in the glad-to-give spirit – sharing success stories, giving scholarships and bursaries, or providing internships. They are truly SP’s pride.

Every SP student has the opportunity to go overseas. It could be a study trip in London or a sports competition in Hong Kong. What about a credit transfer programme in the United States or a competition in Egypt? Perform community service in Vietnam? Yes, these meaningful overseas exposure experiences are all there for you to exploit. Didn’t we say we want you to be ready for the world? We take this seriously!

With the Dover MRT literally at our doorstep, getting to SP is a breeze. Now, with the Circle Line in full operation, you can change train at Buona Vista interchange which is only one stop away. Rain or shine, you can move around campus easily. Other than the MRT, the SP campus is also connected with three bus stops serviced by many bus routes.

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Lecture notes and academic documents are hosted on Blackboard, SP’s e-learning platform. All SP students are also provided with a personalised campus email address for communication purposes. Oh, did you know that blackboard has an application for your mobile devices? With a smart phone, you are well connected with your learning in SP! Learn how to exploit technology for your learning journey on page 31.

The SP campus is full of zest! There’s just so much vibrancy from the studios to the labs, the food courts to the skate park and the gym. So if you are looking forward to a fun and vibrant learning environment for the next three years, hop on to the SP Experience. It’s zany too.

Ready

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SP Outstanding Talent Programme

Want to be an SP Scholar? Do well for your ‘O’ levels and you can apply to be a scholar when you get into SP. There are several scholarship types for you to choose from. And there’s also the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) programme where SP grooms you to be the well-rounded leaders of tomorrow.

Said H to the super friendly and approachable SP Principal when you meet him on campus. He is often spotted chatting with students and staff. If you want to know him better, add him to your Facebook.

Principal

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Wireless

Ready
Special Percolation

Is it ever possible to convert a coffee hater to coffee lover? Some students from the Diploma in Food Science and Technology became new caffeine converts after a series of experiments to develop new coffee blends, the first among poly students here.

According to tales of yore, an Arabian shepherd named Kaldi found his goats prancing delightedly around a dark green-leaved shrub with bright red cherries. He soon determined that the source of all the commotion was the cherries. After he took a bite, Kaldi felt an overwhelming well of power springing forth inside him. Henceforth, humans learned about this humble bean.

From the coffee cherries of Africa to the grinders of 17th century Viennese Kaffeehäuser, and canned coffee now in convenience stores, the history of coffee has had a humble bean.

Tony also taught them how to appreciate coffee from different regions and the various methods of brewing, while coaching them to develop the new blends.

Interview by Rasyid from the Diploma in Games Design and Development. As the Head of Curatorial for the TEDxYouth@Singapore, Rasyid from the Diploma in Games Design and Development was instrumental in shaping this amazing experience. Having got to know the speakers too has started making jokes with one another.

For at least four months, I was running a long marathon with this amazing group of youth and mentors. Way back in July, we were unsure of how we were going to pull off this event, let alone be able to find help. One thing for sure though - we were determined to organise TEDxYouth@Singapore 2011!

Another group of students, who formed themselves into the Pairing Department, worked on developing suitable desserts and food that would pair well with coffee. Their creations, like the coffee blends, wowed the visitors at the launch who unanimously gave the thumbs-up for the cheese, black sesame and salted mandarin chocolate flavoured macarons.

Sharing Platform

TEDxYouth@Singapore came to Singapore on 19th November 2011! The Singapore leg is one of the series of over 100 TEDx events happening all around the world, designed to empower and inspire young people. It was also a day filled with adrenaline and smiles for the organizing team, which was led by Sadali Malawi, a third Year Media and Communication student from SP. The organizing team comprised students from four diploma courses - Media and Communication, Creative Writing for TV and New Media, Games Design and Development, and Creative Media Design. Try Sustrino, a team member, relates his experience.

SP lecturers Stella Wei, Tan Bee Thiam and student Deborah Emmanuel were among the presenters at TEDxYouth@Singapore.
The next time you are at Changi Airport Terminal 3, make it a point to visit SPELL, which stands for SP Entrepreneurship Living Lab. It is a retail business set up by SP students together with the Changi Airport Group. This is the first for a polytechnic to have a full-fledged retail store at a mall.

Teenagers like you will squeal in delight when you know that SPELL stocks an interesting range of street wear including fashion apparel and accessories. Since the range of clothes and accessories are brought in by the students themselves, you bet they know what you want. Prices are affordable. You can get a leather purse for just $7 or $99 for a jacket. And that’s before the discounts when there are promotions!

SPELL is the combined effort of about 100 students taking various courses in SP, ranging from business administration, communications, accountancy and even electrical engineering. The students are wholly responsible for the operations of the 54sqm outlet – from product sourcing and determining the retail mix, to preparing to get the store up and running, and sustaining its business in the long run. In short, this means getting the real entrepreneurial experience!

A unique experience at SPELL is the Magic Mirror created by Motorola. If you hate the hassle of trying on different dresses in a tiny changing room, this innovation makes fitting a breeze. You can see how you look like in the dress that you like without actually trying them on.

Gavin Ting, a recent graduate from SP’s Diploma in Business Administration, counts the practical experience as the highlight of his three years at SP. “I gained invaluable experience in areas such as enterprise development, sourcing, risk taking, and even building relationships with suppliers and customers. Setting up SPELL has given me a taste of what to expect once when I get into the real world,” says Gavin who will be pursuing a double degree in accountancy and business at Nanyang Technological University.

LATEST!
The shop was barely five months old but it has reasons for celebration. Gross sales revenue at SPELL has hit $100,000, thanks to the festive season that brought about increased spending among consumers. Do check out SPELL for upcoming promotions for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and the launch of a local designer collection.

Headlined SPACECares, the concert had more than 100 performers which included local talents such as Inch Chua, Jack and Rai, FM89.7’s The Next Big Thing winner Siti Zahidah and our very own student Shigga Shay who is now a YouTube sensation. The concert ended with a performance from Japanese visual rock band Secilia Luna, beamed all the way from Japan!

The digital platform allowed the performing artists to broadcast their performances anywhere in the world. All they needed were webcams and internet access. The concert was streamed ‘live’ from SP’s online portal SPACE, a multimedia hub that allows SP students to express themselves by creating and uploading videos, music and articles.

Perry Felix Shen, a third-year DMC student who helped to organise the event, said the committee plans to make the concert an annual affair.

The online concert raised a significant sum of $24,000 that was kindly donated by event sponsor, Canon Singapore. All proceeds went to the Japan Red Cross Society via the Japanese Embassy of Singapore.

You can still catch some of the performances on YouTube by searching SPACECares. And if you would like to play a part and donate, visit www.jrc.or.jp/english. Donation lines are open till March 2012.
The objective was to woo, win and wow. The annual SP Open House, held from 5th to 7th Jan, did just that! If you were around the Open Plaza, SP Convention Centre, Auditorium and the Hilltop during those three days, you would be terribly awed by the amount of high energy in campus. The event was an astounding success as more than 15,000 visitors were received over the three-day period, not including the pre-opening day on 4th Jan.

A Spectacular Display of Team SP

The experience was made possible with 101% passion from staffs and students from various Schools and Departments. The Team SP Spirit permeated in almost all aspects of this year’s Open House.

Design of the creatives for this year’s event was once again developed by The Student Agency, an advertising agency under the SP Design School. The School also conceived the ingenious space planning in the course counselling area which resulted in a lot more room for potential students and their anxious parents seeking course information. SP Business School, the Schools of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences and Digital Media and Infocomm Technology opened up their new facilities that made many jaws dropped. The School of Chemical and Life Sciences wowed visitors with state-of-the-art labs and lively presentations by the students.

Students from the Integrated Events and Project Management from the School of Architecture and Built Environment planned the tours to the Schools’ facilities and also the management of the goodie bag which was the most highly sought after item among the polys’ open houses. The two Engineering Schools, School of Chemical and Life Sciences and the Singapore Maritime Academy put up a super-impressive showcase of Final-Year-Projects at the Engineering Show.

The Department of Student Development literally gave life to the campus. Daily performances from student groups like the Gusto! (Cheerleading), Capoeira and Lion Dance gave our visitors some relaxing moments. A good move to stage this on Open House so our visitors know we have talents! For the adventurous ones, they got to try rock-climbing and slacklining. The pen-your-own-message balloons were a big hit and they even found their ways to the other polys’ open houses! And there was free-flow of popcorn, candy floss, Yami Yoghurt, Fanta and Gold Kili beverages, many thanks to our kind sponsors.

Over at the counters for Admissions and Scholarship enquiries, our staffs were deluged with endless enquiries about admission matters, scholarships, SP Outstanding Talent Programme and financial matters. Our diligent SP Scholars happily volunteered their time to share their experiences.

The co-ordination work was humongous. The manpower was never enough. Blood, sweat and tears all oozed in tandem. Was it all worth it? You bet! With a passion to do and a heart to serve, the show-and-tell impressed many ‘O’ level school leavers to put SP as their number one choice during the Joint Admissions Exercise. We look forward to welcoming them in April!

With SP, everything is So Possible!
Proudly decked in SP tees, our young engineers showcased their creations and innovations at the SP Engineering Show 2012 from 4th to 7th January. The annual event, which was previously called SPinnovex, saw more than 100 final-year projects from various academic schools on display. They were categorised into five sections: Living Well; Urban Solutions; Productivity Solutions; Robotic Applications; Flying Machines and Mobile Campus.

There was definitely no shortage of creativity. The projects demonstrated the ability of SP students to combine skills and knowledge to innovate using the Conceive-Design-Implement-Operate (CDIO) process developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. SP is the only polytechnic in Singapore to adopt the CDIO practice which brings out the best in student innovations.

Says Loh Yew Chiong, Co-Chairman for Engineering Show 2012 and Deputy Director from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering: “The projects by the final year students get better and better each year. This year, we adopted a gallery approach to showcase the projects so as to give visitors more space to interact with the students. Much thought went into the development of each project and many of them have great potential to go commercial.”

From the iPad Spider Robot to the Intelli-Sense Bed to the technology that can extend the shelf life of chiffon cakes, these and many others inspiring innovations made their debut at the SP Engineering Show 2012. Our students have given life to the Open House slogan “With SP, it’s so possible!”
Spectacular Performance
For the first time in SP's Open House marketing campaign, three students were specially recruited to show and tell all that they know about SP. From November last year to January, the faces of Darren Ong, Muhammad Fadzly Bin Aziz and Belicia Lim were splashed on the homepage of SP website, aspirations.sg, a microsite specially developed for Open House, and Facebook. Not only that, there were also videos of them spilling all the beans about their SP experience.

Fadzly, Year 2 student from the Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC), is also a DJ at SPACE Radio. He is known by his friends as the bubbly, fun-loving and outgoing buddy you will love to hang out with. His course mate Belicia enjoys dancing in her free time. A small-sized girl to show and tell all that they know about SP. From November last year to January, the faces of Darren Ong, Muhammad Fadzly Bin Aziz and Belicia Lim were splashed on the homepage of SP website, aspirations.sg, a microsite specially developed for Open House, and Facebook. Not only that, there were also videos of them spilling all the beans about their SP experience.

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Darren (D): It’s important for me to be alone when I’m studying. In my course, there are a lot of business terms that I have to memorise, so I’d create acronyms and even stories to help me understand and memorise the terms.

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The National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Gold is a prestigious award presented each year to deserving youths aged between 14 and 25 by the President of Singapore. The award is achieved in a non-competitive capacity and is completed at your own time based on your own areas of interest. Of the 153 recipients in 2011, 46 were either SP students or recent SP graduates. This means the SP institution with current students and Gold Award, making the highest number received the NYAA altogether, 46 SP recent graduates of recipients.

So Proud

The Way To Gold

Like the President’s Scholarship, the Head of State presents the NYAA Gold award annually to honour the hard work, efforts and contributions put in by Singapore youths to the society. Standing on stage and receiving the award from the President of Singapore was the moment I looked forward to ever since I embarked on the NYAA journey.

After 18 months of hard work, I finally reaped the fruits of labour. Beyond the recognition given by the Award, the NYAA scheme has challenged me to face obstacles that I never had imagined myself being able to overcome. The entire journey was not exactly smooth-sailing but it definitely was a great deal of fun and tears. I learned about teamwork and leadership and forged new friendships with like-minded youth who were equally passionate to serve the community. I remember vividly the smiles on the faces of those students whom I taught in Singapore and Vietnam.

Besides community service, I achieved other personal firsts. Among them were competing my first full-marathon and having an article published in a local magazine.

The NYAA scheme had strengthened me both physically and emotionally. Now I see myself as a better individual, servant leader, communicator, writer and friend. The many activities that I participated in opened up a myriad of other opportunities to give back to society. The journey has broadened my perspectives in the way I see things. I discovered my strengths and weaknesses and geared myself towards finding my passion and interest.

Given a second chance, I would definitely embark on this quest again to serve and inspire. Being a Gold Award recipient is an honour but it goes beyond more than just embellishing my resume. It is an initiation point to embark on new initiatives to serve those in need and create legacies thereafter.

The journey beyond Gold has just begun. I participated in opened up a myriad of opportunities that I picked up during my secondary school days where I took part in various running activities. To make it more meaningful, I set a target for myself to complete a full marathon upon the completion of this component. I did this in 2009. Overall, the experience was also a self-motivation for me to avoid procrastination.

ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY

SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) Leadership Camp

I completed the four-day-three-night camp as part my SPOT developmental programme at Telunas Beach in Indonesia. It was an outdoor camp where we slept in hammocks and cooked bucket dinner as a team. We performed teambuilding activities such as the Raft Challenge and jumped off a nine-metre dock into the clear blue sea. Besides learning about leadership, I also forged new friendship with the group of awesome people in my team.

PHYSICAL RECREATION

Running

Running is seen by many as an easy sport. However, it also requires self-discipline and endurance. This is an interest that I picked up during my secondary school days where I took part in various running activities. To make it more meaningful, I set a target for myself to complete a full marathon upon the completion of this component. I did this in 2009. Overall, the experience was also a self-motivation for me to avoid procrastination.

SERVICE

Tutoring

I always have the passion to teach because it is really rewarding to see others learning and benefiting from the lessons that I conduct. I returned to my alma mater, Christ Church Secondary, during the polytechnic holidays to conduct tutorial programme for the Normal Technical students. The students never failed to make me laugh with their crazy logics in algebra.

SKILLS

Journalism

I joined the campus publication fullTime, now revamped as SPirit, in 2009 as rookie journalist. As a science student, I was completely clueless about journalism. The 18-month experience was extraordinary. I was given many opportunities to cover and write articles for events that included ministerial visits and big-scale events such as RoboCup in 2010. With the experience, I started my contributions to Teens magazine from 2010. It was like a dream come true to read my articles in a commercial magazine.

RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

OCIP Vietnam – Project Hy Vong (Hope)

This residential project was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, for 14 days with 20 others SPOT (SP Outstanding Talent) students. The project aimed to provide more learning opportunities for the little ones in Vietnam. We taught English to the kids and engaged them in the importance of English communication and presentation skills. Hopefully, this will nurture their interest in them to learn the language.

DID YOU KNOW…..

In SP, all leadership camps organised by the Department of Student Development qualify for the Adventurous Journey component. There are also the SP Sport Effective Leaders programme and Physical Recreation section. All the Overseas Community Involvement Programmes can also count towards fulfilling the Residential Project requirements.

Getting the NYAA Gold can be a breeze with 100% determination and another 100% passion. With SP, it’s So Possible!
In 2010, three SP Business students got together and brainstormed business ideas. They hatched what they thought was a brilliant business proposal. With help from the StartUps@SP which is managed by the Department of Industry Services, their proposal was sent to Spring Singapore for funding approval. Guess what? The business plan was given the maximum $50,000 funding and Creed Media was born! Almost two years have passed.

What is Creed Media and who started it?
There are three of us in this business venture, myself, Suresh Kumar Sarad and Royston Ong. All of us were from the Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT) course and we graduated in 2010. We developed the idea in 2009 and received funding from Spring Singapore under the YES! StartUps funding scheme (now renamed ACE StartUps Grants) in the same year.

What is the revenue model for the company?
This is simply an advertising driven business model. It is a game advertising platform where a suite of online games are made available on the Internet and advertisements are streamed through these games each time they are played. Most netizens enjoy playing games and we are hopeful that this will work. Anyone who sign up and add these games to their blogs, websites or social media platforms will be instantly credited with $5 into their account. Thereafter, every time the game is played off their blog, they will also get paid! So advertisers get the exposure and netizens get rewarded for playing the games. It’s a win-win for all.

The business was launched when you guys were still in SP. What happened during the two years after graduation?
We had to serve our national service after graduation but we continued to lay the ground work and work with our newly acquired partners. We spent quite a bit of time developing and improving our platform to better serve our game publishers.

Creed Media received funding from Spring Singapore, what do you think was the reason that clinched the deal?
I think the clincher was the scalability of this business model. There’s a lot more than we can add on. I’m not saying anything yet but we will release updates soon.

Now that all the founders are completing National Service soon, will you all be running this full-time?
All three of us will continue our studies at the universities but we will still run Creed Media. We are able to do so as we have a core functioning team.

Why did you guys decide to be entrepreneurs at a young age?
We all have a passion for entrepreneurship and didn’t want to pass on a wonderful opportunity given by SP and Spring Singapore. Our families have been extremely supportive from the beginning and we are extremely grateful for that.

How has your diploma course helped you guys in setting up this business?
We opted for the management scheme module during our second year and the entrepreneurship concentration option in our final year. These were offered under the DBIT course that we studied. The technical modules gave us the exposure and a strong foundation in IT knowledge while the management modules provided us with the business fundamentals on how to run our operations. And of course, we had very dedicated lecturers and staff who guided us along the way.

For information about Creed Media, visit www.creed-media.com.

"Suresh, Siang Sheng and Royston are each young, hungry entrepreneurs. Each of them has different strengths and abilities. But all three espouse the SP Core Values which include self-discipline, integrity, responsibility and excellence. Embracing these values are especially crucial in a competitive industry such as internet marketing.

They are able to tap on what they have learnt of this business model. Three brilliant chaps, each of them has more of these young, hungry entrepreneurs. We need to serve our game publishers.

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If you have a great business idea and would like to see it become a reality, get in touch with Startups @SP.

Besides getting all the answers to starting a business, you can also go behind the scenes to see young entrepreneurs in action at InnoVillage, the innovation hub at SP. Hear their start-up experiences and be motivated by their courage and determination that turn their dreams into reality. Startups @SP is a collaboration between Spring Singapore and SP’s Technology Transfer and Enterprise Centre to provide youth with the springboard to entrepreneurship. Good business proposals stand to get a grant of up to $50,000 under the Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) Startups Grant administered by Spring Singapore. Contact Ms Annie Sung from the Department of Industry Services at 68704732 or email anniesung@sp.edu.sg.

It is a win-win for all. The netizens get rewarded for playing the games, and the advertisers get exposure.

Suresh, Siang Sheng and Royston are each young, hungry entrepreneurs. Each of them has different strengths and abilities. But all three espouse the SP Core Values which include self-discipline, integrity, responsibility and excellence. Embracing these values are especially crucial in a competitive industry such as internet marketing. They are able to tap on what they have learnt of this business model. Three brilliant chaps, each of them has more of these young, hungry entrepreneurs.

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For information about Creed Media, visit www.creed-media.com.
e-modules that not only provide facts and information but even an app for students to exchange ideas.

Staff and students to put forth their ideas for textbooks. These applications were created following a campus-wide call to all students.

At the first SP MobFest held recently, an array of mobile technology enabled applications were unveiled for the first time. It ranges from using iPads and iPhones to create music, e-Books, and even an app for students to exchange ideas. These applications were created following a campus-wide call to all staff and students to put forth their ideas to take e-learning to a new level.

While academic staff developed applications that would enhance their teaching methods, students created e-modules that not only provide facts and figures but also little quizzes and jokes to break the learning monotony. Says Teh Jing Hurng, a second-year student from the Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business who developed the abcdeBook app with his team mates: “After creating the e-Book, then we realised how tough it must have been for our lecturers to develop our lecture notes because we had to understand the textbook before we could teach it. So now, we have learnt to really appreciate what they did.”

Besides MobFest, some SP Schools have experimented with mobile learning. Accountancy students at SP Business School participated in an e-Book learning on Principles of Accounting using iPads. An e-Book called Fundamentals of Accounting was created to teach students about the Accounting Equation and the Double Entry Concept. These two chapters were taught earlier but the iPad session was a good time to refresh and recall what they have studied earlier. The difference is that the e-Book also contains videos and audio explanation, among other features. Ryan Chua, a first-year Diploma in Accounting student, says: “The e-Book is really user friendly, the two chapters are easily accessible and there are quizzes to help us revise!” His course mate Claire Tan echoes, “Using the iPad to learn accounting was enriching and fun and this is one of the few times that I used the iPad for something educational.”

More such initiatives will be rolled out across all SP Schools in the next two to three years. By 2014, SP hopes to become a fully mobile technology-enabled campus.

Technology is changing so fast that it will become a bane or boon to you if you don’t exploit it to your advantage. SP’s resident techie Terence Yeo from the Diploma in Banking and Financial Services shows you how to maximise learning on campus using your gadgets.

Before joining SP, you probably thought that it would be so hip and cool to carry a laptop to school. Soon enough, you will realise that lugging a device weighing 2kg or more is not as fun as you had thought. You also wished that your smartphone and tablet devices could do more for you. Well, you can if you want to. Here are some applications that you can use to make learning a breeze!

**SP mobile applications**

Life in SP has become much simplified. There is a range of mobile and tablet apps to keep your timetables, library notices and the campus map in your pocket.

**Note pad**

Using the note pad application on your phone is a good way to take down quick notes in class. You can also sync these notes and reminders with your laptop to make sure you don’t forget any of these things.

**Email**

All SP students are given a school email. You may find it a hassle to have another email account since you already have your own Hotmail or Gmail. But the SP account is where you official get your mails from your lecturer and other departments. It also allows collaboration through an online suite to share documents and calendars. With the large inbox size, you need not delete any important mails anymore.

**Dropbox**

Project work normally involves multiple files to be shared with your group mates. And it’s definitely messy with all the updates and revisions to your power point and spreadsheets. Use the Dropbox. Just drop files into the Dropbox, and voila! The latest file will be synced to your group mates. But always remember to rename your new files to avoid confusion.

**Google Docs**

Looking for a way to collaborate with other users using the same platform? Check out Google Docs which allows users to upload files to Google’s server. It enables live editing and you can read and conduct surveys using Google Docs' Spreadsheet, where a form can be created and results are available in Excel format or charts.

**Facebook**

This has gone beyond socialising and connecting with your good old secondary school pals or finding new friends. Many SP lecturers have a FB account and you can join in to post quick updates to modules.

**Twitter**

Whenever you need to get the latest update or blast for your project, you can stay on Twitter to get the latest news tweets! If your class rep is on twitter, he can also instantly update everyone on any school related updates! Even more efficient than SMS, some would say.

**Video**

Some things can’t be explained with mere words. Why not make a simple video with your smart phone and share it as a video file or upload it to Youtube if it takes up too much space on your phone. There are some Do It Yourself tutorial videos on Youtube where you get step-by-step guide how on how to edit videos.
Leader of the Pack

The Microsoft Student Partner (MSP) Program is a worldwide initiative by the technology giant to recognise top young minds from around the world with a passion for the latest in technological innovations. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for them to develop real-world skills with a world leader and is definitely a springboard to their future careers. In Singapore, about 80 students from the polytechnics and junior colleges who meet the stringent criteria are accepted into program each year.

What is exciting about the Microsoft Student Partner Program? As a Microsoft Student Partner, we are challenged to use our knowledge to engage in discussions with fellow poly students. We get to test the latest technology and participate in events. Through these activities, we share with other students what’s hot and hopefully get inspirations to create what’s next.

What are the perks in this program? We get access to the latest Microsoft softwares, attend special training sessions and do public presentations. We get to test the latest technology and participate in events. Through these activities, we share with other students what’s hot and hopefully get inspirations to create what’s next.

What are some of the activities that you guys do and how often are these held? Regular workshops are conducted to equip us with the latest technology and other soft skills which could help us in sharing our knowledge on campus. These workshops are either conducted by Microsoft or external vendors or even the MSP ourselves. We also have meetings every three months to discuss upcoming plans. We also organise activities for our peers. In SP for example, I advised the campus team for various events such as the Techfest @ SP which attracted over 1,000 students in attendance and the introduction of our the annual Imagine Cup Competition recently. On top of that, we (MSPs) manage the Microsoft College Connect Facebook group which has garnered more than 10,000 fans following us.

In your opinion, what were the reasons that made you stand out from the rest? I felt that this platform would be a wonderful way to do so.

How many students are involved in this program and do they come from only the Polys only? What are the basic requirements to join this program? To date, we have over 80 student partners in Singapore which comes from the polytechnics and universities, namely all the five polytechnics, National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University.

As a Microsoft Student Partner, you are expected to possess good knowledge of technology and willing to learn and share with your peers. Other soft skills such as teamwork and public speaking skill would be useful.

What was the selection process like for the Leader? For example, do you have to be voted by the other members or go through an interview?

What has been some of your most interesting project so far as a MSP? I was part of the team that managed to reach out to over 9,000 students to join the Microsoft College Connect Facebook page in just 14 days. What’s interesting behind it was that we managed to put this Facebook campaign together in just days! I got to try out the latest Windows Phone 7.5 and was one of the first owners of the Nokia Lumia 800, weeks before it was officially launched in Singapore. I also get the chance to visit other polys and universities to share on various technologies.

In what ways has your involvement helped in your DIT course, or vice versa? The knowledge gained and the experience in giving presentations helped a lot in my school projects and competitions for my DIT course. For example, I was able to go all the way to the semi-final round for the Imagine Cup Competition in Singapore and also came in Top 100 for Imagine Cup Worldwide 2011 in the Windows Phone Challenge. I was also a finalist in both the School and Mobile (Open) Categories for STF Award 2011 and took the third place in the AppVenture Mobile Competition.

Your MSP talk to SP student Lim Cheng Lei from the Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) on his role as the student lead of the MSP Program in Singapore.

When did you first get involved in MSP and why did you join? It was my lecturer Ms Wong Shin Yueh from the School in Digital Media and Infocomm Technology who told me about the program when I was in my second year. I have always been interested in technology and also sharing with my peers. Hence I felt that this platform would be a wonderful way to do so.

How many students are involved in this program and do they come from only the Polys only? What are the basic requirements to join this program? To date, we have over 80 student partners in Singapore which comes from the polytechnics and universities, namely all the five polytechnics, Singapore Management University, National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. To be a member, you are expected to possess good knowledge of technology and willing to learn and share with your peers. Other soft skills such as teamwork and public speaking skill would be useful.

What was the selection process like for the Leader? For example, do you have to be voted by the other members or go through an interview? Each MSP belongs to a campus team and there will be a Campus Lead. There are eight Campus Leads and they form the Core Team which is led by the Singapore Lead. The Singapore Lead is selected by the Academic Developer Evangelist, who is the Microsoft Staff in-charge of the Microsoft Student Partner Programme.

What are your responsibilities? I have to ensure that all campus teams are on-track, manage monthly gatherings and meetings and also introduce new initiatives that will bring the Program to a higher level.

In your opinion, what were the reasons that made you stand out and be appointed to the Singapore Lead position? I think it could be my outspoken nature and also the passion in me that helped me stand out. Even when I was new to the Program, I never hesitated to conduct sharing sessions and always mingle around with other senior MSPs who have been with the Program for the past few years.

What is exciting about the Microsoft Student Partner Program? I was part of the team that managed to reach out to over 9,000 students to join the Microsoft College Connect Facebook page in just 14 days. What’s interesting behind it was that we managed to put this Facebook campaign together in just days! I got to try out the latest Windows Phone 7.5 and was one of the first owners of the Nokia Lumia 800, weeks before it was officially launched in Singapore. I also get the chance to visit other polys and universities to share on various technologies.

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You are now doing your internship with Microsoft. What do you do there? I am developing a suite of Windows Phone 7 Applications and also working on the curriculum for an IDA event on Windows Phone 7 Programming. I get to work closely with many academic representatives from different schools and network with Microsoft staff from the Asia Pacific Office, Microsoft Research and Microsoft Singapore. I was also tasked to run many events such as the Microsoft Kinect + Developer Conference, TechDays.2011 and the IDA Youth Infocomm Day.
**With SP, It’s SO POSSIBLE**

In 2011, SP graduates clinched prestigious scholarships for their university degree and post-graduate programmes.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Recipient(s)</th>
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<td>Justin Tan Wei Yang</td>
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<td>DISTA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OVERSEAS)</td>
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<td>OOD CHOK TONG YOUTH PROMISE AWARD</td>
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<td>LKY STEP AWARD</td>
<td>Kureen Thian Phe Shee</td>
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<td>NAGOYA UNIVERSITY / JAPAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE SCHOLARSHIP</td>
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<td>Koh Wei Xin Stephanie, Low Jun Feng Evan, Lye Swee Hong James, Tan Mingwen Mandric, Teo Wei Ming Gavin</td>
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<td>Booey Kai Ming, Chia Pei Shan, Gan Ting Sheng, Kelvin Khoo Kuek Yoe, Lim Cha Sheng, Nicholas Chan Kit Joe, On Ching Mun, Tan Wen Hao, Tung Yi Xiang, Wong Lan Li</td>
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<td>NTU COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP</td>
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<td>Vivki Lau</td>
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*This list is by no means exhaustive as it is compiled based on notifications received from the graduates and the awarding universities/organisations.*
The Perfect Match

Training to become a stock and share trader could not get any more realistic for students taking the Diploma in Banking and Financial Services (DBF): A unique collaboration between SP and UOB Kay Hian, the leading securities firm in Singapore, will pave the way for them to get as real it could possibly get.

Last month, both parties signed a Memorandum of Co-operation (MOC) to further develop their relationship and launch new initiatives for DBF students. Under the MOC, SP and UOB Kay Hian will jointly organise investment seminars to educate the public, as well as staff and students of SP. They will also collaborate to provide investment games and simulated trading for DBF students at the UOB Kay Hian–SP Dealing Centre located at SP Business School. The Centre is equipped with the dealing communication system and Thomson Reuters’ financial information that provides real-time market rates, news and price charts. It has the capability to replicate real-world trading experience and connects students with the financial world. Year DBF students taking the Financial Trading option will be trained in price making as well as applying trading principles and position management. SP is the only polytechnic in Singapore to invest in such a unique learning environment.

And there’s more good news. As part of the MOU deal, UOB Kay Hian Holdings Limited will sponsor up to 30 scholarships to DBF students and provide internship and job opportunities for DBF graduates.

BCA Scholarships
For 10 SP Courses

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) has launched a new scholarship and award scheme for young people interested in pursuing careers in the built environment industry. Called the BCA–Industry Built Environment Diploma Scholarship (BIDS), it is open to polytechnic students taking courses relevant to this industry.

Recipients of the Scholarship will have their course fees paid for and get an allowance of $900 per month while those under Sponsorship will get an annual allowance of $7,000. There will be a one-year bond for each year of scholarship/sponsorship. Upon graduation, recipients can also progress to the Post Diploma Development Phase where they will earn a monthly salary of $2,500 and go through upgrading via advanced / specialist diploma courses.

SP has 10 diploma courses that qualify for this scheme, the biggest number among the five polys. These are the Diplomas in Architecture; Civil Engineering with Business; Clean Energy; Electrical & Electronic Engineering; Environmental Management & Water Technology; Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management; Integrated Events and Project Management; Interior Design; Landscape Architecture; and Mechanical Engineering.

For details on this scheme or to apply, do visit www.buildingcareers.sg.

Analyze This!

SP’s School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) has partnered SAS Institute, the leader in business analytics software and services, to provide DMIT students with an understanding of Business Analytics. Under this programme, students from the Diplomas in Business Information Technology (DBIT), Information Technology (BIT) and Information Security Management (BISM) will be trained in Business Analytics using SAS software. In its affirmation towards educating the future generation of IT experts, new SAS-SP scholarships will be awarded to deserving students in the respective diploma courses. They will also be attached to leading companies and organisations for their internship. This also includes internship opportunities with either SAS or their partners.

Bids for 10 SP Courses

The Bids Programme, which was launched last year, is a new scholarship and award scheme for polytechnic students interested in pursuing careers in the built environment. It is open to students taking courses relevant to this industry. Recipients of the Scholarship will have their course fees paid for and get an allowance of $900 per month while those under Sponsorship will get an annual allowance of $7,000. There will be a one-year bond for each year of scholarship/sponsorship. Upon graduation, recipients can also progress to the Post Diploma Development Phase where they will earn a monthly salary of $2,500 and go through upgrading via advanced / specialist diploma courses.

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For details on this scheme or to apply, do visit www.buildingcareers.sg.

Business Design Scholarships

Students enrolled in SP’s newest diploma course in Business Innovation and Design, which will be launched later this year, will have the opportunity to work on innovation projects with leading companies and organisations. This is part of the MOU deal between SP and UOB Kay Hian Holdings Limited to provide up to 30 scholarships to DBF students.

Students from the Diplomas in Architecture and Civil Engineering will stand a good chance to be selected for the scholarship programme for this course.

To express its support for the diploma, MND issued the following statement: “The Economic Strategies Committee (ESC) in February 2010 envisioned an expansion of Singapore’s economy based on skills, innovation and productivity. To help foster a vibrant climate of creativity and incubate a mindset for innovations amongst young Singaporeans, the Ministry of National Development and its family of Statutory Boards are exploring with Singapore Polytechnic the feasibility of a scholarship programme to encourage promising students to take up a Diploma in Business Innovation and Design at the Polytechnic. Through this collaboration, we support the introduction of design innovation programming and modules to students. As part of the proposed scholarship programme, scholars can also look forward to internship at the Ministry of National Development (MND) and the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF).”

The programme, which was launched last year, is a new scholarship and award scheme for polytechnic students interested in pursuing careers in the built environment. It is open to students taking courses relevant to this industry. Recipients of the Scholarship will have their course fees paid for and get an allowance of $900 per month while those under Sponsorship will get an annual allowance of $7,000. There will be a one-year bond for each year of scholarship/sponsorship. Upon graduation, recipients can also progress to the Post Diploma Development Phase where they will earn a monthly salary of $2,500 and go through upgrading via advanced / specialist diploma courses.

SP has 10 diploma courses that qualify for this scheme, the biggest number among the five polys. These are the Diplomas in Architecture; Civil Engineering with Business; Clean Energy; Electrical & Electronic Engineering; Environmental Management & Water Technology; Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management; Integrated Events and Project Management; Interior Design; Landscape Architecture; and Mechanical Engineering.

For details on this scheme or to apply, do visit www.buildingcareers.sg.
Rise Of A Military Star

Lloyd Chua Wei Zheng, a graduate from the Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Yi Hong from the Diploma in Aerospace Electronics, have clinched the bond-free Motorola Scholarships for the current academically high performing GCE O-level and A-level students as well as those who complete the GCE O-level and A-level examinations. Lloyd, who is an active member of the Changi Youth Ambassador (CVA) and has volunteered at old folks’ homes and performing the Guzheng at charity events.

Fast Track To Become Accountants

SP students taking the Diploma in Accountancy (DAC) can now become full-qualified chartered management accountants just three years after graduation. This is made possible under a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

The Dramatic Scholarship Winner

When Izzaty Binte Ishak chose the newly launched Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology diploma course three years ago, it was her mere passion that helped made her decision. Now, the bubbly 20-year-old is thankful that she made the right choice. She recently received the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award (Distinction) given by the Yayasan Mendaki. She also clinched the one and only Distinction Award for Overseas Study and is now fulfilling her studies in Applied Theatre at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London University.

The Singapore Chemical Industry Council has given Awards to seven Diploma in Chemical Engineering students to recognise them for their academic excellence in 2010/2011. The top students from each year received $1,000 and the second and third top students from Year 2 and 3 each received $500. The recipients are: From Year 1 (in 2010) – Ng Pey Ling, Joacim Tan and Brandon Marc Roudveld; Year 2 (in 2010) – Matthew James, Gavin Wong and Adin Sucipto; Year 3 (in 2010) – Tan Kim How.
ABE + EEE Winning Combo

A team comprising 2nd Year Diploma in Architecture and Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering students did SP proud by winning the Most Innovative Award and the Top 20 Finalist Award at the Philippines’ Future Living Spaces in Singapore – Student Contest. Organised by Philips Singapore to celebrate its 60th anniversary, it was open to students from local tertiary institutions to project their ideas on how to improve our lives 10 to 15 years from now.

The collaboration between the students from the two schools was seamless. There were cross-fertilisation of ideas from differing but connected minds that spanned across design and practical considerations – from unconventional environmental built forms to ubiquitous daily products, with sustainable technology as a key element.

The Most Innovative Award, named ‘G-Float Residences’, was submitted by architecture students Ho Wing Hong, Nur Syafiqah Masnor, Soh Zheng Xun and electrical and electronic student Khoo Ru Jun.

Their entry showcased technology that could address the increasing occurrence of natural calamities such as flash flooding, while relooking at how specific buildings form can tap from and contribute to the environment.

The Top 20 Finalist Award was submitted by architecture student Bryant Lau Liang Cheng who revolved the once-distinctive kampong spirit in our community. His idea was a system of Eco-Cubes that can be freely agglomerated to various housing configurations suited to the diversified needs of contemporary urban dwellers. This gives the inhabitants the freedom to define their domestic boundaries that might help to build up a social communal spirit.

The Most Innovative Award won a cash prize of $1,500 plus a Philips Sound Bar Home Theatre worth $1,399 while the Top 20 Finalist Award winner brought home a cash prize of $50 plus a Philips Headband headphone.

Personal Rapid Transport Wins Multiple Awards

The young SP engineers that developed that DIY-PRT (Personal Rapid Transport) took their invention a step further by winning the Student Design Challenge @ iCreate 2011 which was held in Bangkok. It was invented by recent graduates from the Diploma in Computer Engineering – Kelvin Khoo Kian Yu, A Saratnam and Cong Jiat Ting. Their invention won the Best Prototype and Peor’s Choice awards, besides gaining attention from the local media that includes the local TV news giving commentary and interviewing them.

There was even an interested party who wanted to get exclusive rights to distribute the product!

This was not the only award that they got. The invention also clinched the Bronze Award at the IES (Institution of Engineers Singapore) Design Award 2011 and a Merit Award at the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors Award 2011.

The DIY-PRT, which has two wheels positioned laterally, serves as a pedestrian enhancement device to reduce travelling time primarily in urban settings over short or long distances. Users can move the device simply by leaning forward slightly while seated. You can check out the videos on this invention, just google DIY-PRT on Youtube.

Irritating Noise Wins Gold

Diploma in Electrical and Electronic students Logendran Sugumaran, Muhammad Qayyum Bin Abdulshafal and Padmapagna Shanmugasundaram won the Silver Award at the Security Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) Challenge 2011 (ITE / Polytechnic category) organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The team’s idea was a buzz system that could provide hope for the increasing problem of youths blocking fire exit routes. The remote-controlled buzz system emits sound waves of about 15 kHz that is only audible only to those below the age of 40. The buzzing sounds will make people feel uncomfortable and move away.

Budding Entrepreneurs

As the Singapore Youth Enterprise Awards, a team of final-year students from SP Business School walked away with $2,000 cash and other prizes for emerging as first runner-up. The competition, organised by the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce (SICC) aimed to nurture entrepreneurial spirit amongst Singaporean youth aged between 17 to 26.

The competing teams came from the polytechnics and universities as well as building entrepreneurs. Each team had to submit a business plan, make a five-minute pitch and field questions at a 30-minute Q&A session chaired by a panel of experienced entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

The SP team comprised Diploma in Business Administration students, Nazneen Mohsina and Geraldine Quek Pei Qi, and Diploma in Banking and Financial Services student, Muhammad Imam bin Rahman. The team also benefitted from the contributions of two other DBF students, Tan Chi Koong and Tan Qin Hui.

Said Nazneen: “It was an awesome experience for us. I’ve learnt that we should trust our instincts and just give it our best shot when we’re nervous. The experience certainly boosted my confidence level!”

Best Performance Robot

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Discovering Architecture In China

Twenty-six architecture students went on a study trip to Beijing. Their itinerary included attending a series of informative lectures about China’s traditional architecture, history and culture conducted by staff from the Beijing Language & Cultural University. There were also trips to historical architectural sites around the city such as the Beijing Olympic Park, Forbidden City, Great Wall Of China, Nanluoguxiang and the 798 Art District. Apart from seeing with their own eyes China’s traditional architecture, the students also had a fun time discovering Chinese culture such as eating fried scorpions and bargaining prices at street markets.

Young But Impactful

Students from the Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT) went to Taiwan to participate in the Journey to Achieve the Best Oral Presentation Award at the 46th International Conference on Challenges in Environmental Science and Engineering held in Taiwan. It was hosted by the Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science, under the Department of Environmental Engineering and Science, Tainan, Taiwan. There were close to 200 participants from all over the world and SP participants were the only diploma students amongst the teams from other countries that comprised mostly professors, lecturers, researchers, PhD students and Master students.

Awards were given out to teams in two categories: Poster Presentations and Oral Presentations. One of the SP Teams comprising final year DEWT students, Ong Zhi Siang, Ericson Tan and Darren Lee won the Best Young Scientist Oral Presentation Award for their presentation on Removal of Methylene Blue onto Biochar of Wood Waste. The students received many compliments with many esteemed academicians surprised that they were so young yet knowledgeable.

During the trip, the students took the opportunity to visit the Kaotan Water Treatment Plant that boasts the largest integrated membrane system for tap water supply in the world; an incineration plant Kaotan Water Treatment Plant that boasts the largest integrated membrane system for tap water supply in the world; an incineration plant that they were so young yet knowledgeable.

On weekends, they took in the sights of Ireland and visited most major tourist places such as the Cliffs of Moher, Glendalough (the valley of two lakes), Wicklow the Book of Kells at the Trinity College of Dublin and watched the parade on Saint Patrick’s Day. They even dropped in at the headquarters of Guinness Stout but came out sober, of course!

Ireland Beckons!

Twenty-three staff and students from the Diploma in Optometry went to Sri Lanka to provide basic eye care services in September. More than 400 natives were given eye screening and 105 of them received spectacles. Another team comprising 30 students and three lecturers embarked on a vision screening project for children in Batam, Indonesia where they screened more than 2,200 children.

“All of us are really grateful and thankful to be part of these community service efforts. We may have only done a small part, but I do hope that whatever we’ve done will impact the villagers in a big way,” said Danny Sim, an Optometry lecturer who led the trip.

Equipped with vision testing instrument and about 1,400 pairs of recycled glasses, the team checked on the children’s eyesight in Sri Lanka. Those with poor eyesight had their prescription determined and not only corrected with the recycled glasses. For prescriptions that were not within the range of the recycled glasses, they were prepared in SP Optometry Centre and sent to them.

The students also checked for eye abnormalities, such as cataract, lazy eye, corneal scar, retinal diseases and serious cases were referred for medical attention. Despite facing a language barrier, the students were quick to adapt and found ways to communicate with the children. Given the rural setting, other than gaining valuable and rewarding experiences in working with young children, the students also developed growth in their clinical skills.

More Food Science & Technology Degree Grads

The second batch of 35 students from the Bachelor in Food Technology degree programme offered by Massey University and hosted by SP graduated recently. Massey University’s Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health was chosen two years ago as the food technology degree provider for SP. It involves Massey staff teaching Singapore students, who have completed diploma studies at the polytechnic, for a two-year Bachelor in Food Technology (Honours) degree programme. Among them were three who graduated with First Class Honours. All 29 graduates from the pioneer batch are happily employed, while one, May Wee, was awarded a PhD scholarship by Massey.

Wong Xin Yu, who is now an assistant food technologist at Netflix’s research and development centre, said she found the degree programme very intensive and well structured. “Food safety, processing technology and chemistry are useful knowledge which helped me a lot in my current job dealing with food product development work where innovation is required to in this competitive industry.”
Cloud Learning

SP students will be amongst the first in tertiary students here to learn cloud computing, thanks to the launch of SPE³C³ (Singapore Polytechnic Electronic and Electrical Engineering Cloud Computing Centre). SP is the first educational institution in the Asia Pacific to equip its students with the latest skills in cloud computing through an operational data center environment. Conceptualised by the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, the SPE³C³ will provide academic staff and students with the capability to engage in sophisticated research and project work.

Setting up SPE³C³, which costs just over $2 million, will also enable SP to realise cost savings, energy efficiency and dynamic scalability. The Centre was developed in collaboration with technology industry leaders Cisco, Citrix Systems and NetApp. The resources will initially be available students from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, it will later be accessible by all SP students in and outside of campus, as long as internet access is available.

“The new SPE³C³ shows SP’s commitment to innovation in education and the use of cutting-edge technology to provide our students with relevant and up-to-date training to develop their skills in virtualisation, enterprise and cloud computing. SP graduates will be truly work-ready in the cloud era and could contribute immediately to the industry upon graduation,” said SP Principal, Tan Hung Cheong.

Students Abdul Haliq s/o Abdul Latiff, Tan Zhi Qiang and Adinda Siti Zara Binti Shamsuddin will be tapping on its expertise and resources together to research, design, test-bed and commercialise indoor and outdoor infrastructure-based navigation systems.

New Module for Computing Engineering Students

In 2012, final year students in the Diploma in Computer Engineering course can look forward to two new elective modules: Data Center Management and System Virtualisation – that will harness the power of the SPE³C³. These new courses are designed to educate and train them in the setup, management and support of data centre, virtualisation techniques (including server, storage and network virtualisation) and data recovery.

One Big Robotic Step Forward

SP and ST Kinetics (STK), the land systems arm of ST Engineering, jointly set up the SP-STK Robotics Laboratory to develop infrastructure-based navigation technologies for Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV) applications. The collaboration will see STK and SP pool their expertise and resources together to research, design, test-bed and commercialise indoor and outdoor infrastructure-based navigation systems.

STK brings to this collaboration its core strengths in vehicle development and 10 years of experience in developing Unmanned Ground Vehicles for military applications. SP will be tapping on its expertise and experience in robotics engineering for the collaboration.

President of STK, Sew Chee Jhuen said, “The collaboration marks our commitment to research and develop advanced technologies to build innovative autonomous and robotics solutions for our customers.” SP Principal Tan Hung Cheong believes the partnership will offer SP students invaluable real-life learning opportunities. “Our students will benefit greatly from the opportunity to learn from an industry leader like ST Kinetics. It is a commitment to ensuring that our students are given the most relevant exposure in an authentic learning environment to prepare them for work in the robotics industry,” he added.

Located in SP campus, both parties are now developing three types of infrastructure-based navigation solutions: the Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID), Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and the Vision-based navigation systems.

Published Papers By SP Graduates

Two recent SP engineering graduates Peh Ruijie and Lu Yanru, together with their lecturer Dr Kwok Wei Lok, had their paper titled “Vacuum-free processed transparent inverted organic solar cells with spray-coated PEDOT:PSS anode” published in the international scientific journal Solar Energy Materials and Solar Cells. It is a rare achievement for polytechnic graduates to be able to publish a paper in an international journal. Their success will pave the way for more SP students to work towards scientific research. Ruijie, who graduated this year from the Diploma in Clean Energy, also presented a paper at the International Conference on Materials for Advanced Technologies (ICMAT) which was attended by representatives from universities all over the world. He presented on his work which involved developing important processes to spray coat a water-based conductive ink onto a hydrophobic surface. He was the only polytechnic graduate to present his work while the rest of the presenters were either professors or PhD students from universities around the world.

New High For Cyber Security

SP and e-Cop have jointly set up the region’s first Cyberwatch Competency Centre which will pave the way for collaboration in cyber security research and development projects between both parties. Through the Centre, students and educators from SP will work with e-Cop on real-world cyber security projects, granting them market-relevant experience that will groom the next generation of cyber security innovators and thought leaders for Singapore and the region.

Said Tan Hang Cheong, SP Principal, “The Centre will be a new learning space concept for our students from the Diploma in Infosecurity Management (DISM). Just as soldiers are trained in firing ranges before going onto the battle field, this new learning space will provide SP’s students with an authentic learning environment to train them in dealing with real-world security scenarios.”

Walter Lee, CEO of the e-Cop Group said, “Cyber security is of paramount importance to governments and corporations. This partnership with SP, which is being supported by Microsoft, will further build the cyber security capability and capacity in Singapore, increasing our resilience into the future.

SP Recognised For Supporting NSmen

SP is one of four organisations that received the Home Team Service Award this year. The Award recognised the achievements of employees who have over the years put in place an extensive range of schemes to enhance operational readiness, promote physical fitness and recognise the good performance of their NSmen employees.

Principal Tan Hang Cheong recently received the Award from the Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and the Minister for Home Affairs Teo Chee Hean.

Mr Tan Hang Cheong promised that SP will continue to support and recognise NSmen as they perform their duty to keep Singapore safe.
Poly 50 Campus Relay has a long history that dates back to 1970 when SP was located at Prince Edward Road. The students then used to run the 50 rounds along the classroom corridors and on muddy tracks and turf around the campus. The race moved to the Ayer Rajah Campus for one year in 1978 where the 50-round run was ran around the workshops. It finally took place in the Dover Road Campus around the end of 1978 where secondary school students, SP students, alumni and staff ran around the Admin Block car park and workshops blocks 1 and 5A.

This year, Poly 50 was co-organised by the Department of Student Development and the Alumni Relations Office and it was more than just relay rounds. The Admin Block was turned into a carnival ground where participants and visitors helped themselves with food, drinks and games. There was also a Poly 50 Memory Wall where participants could pen their thoughts on the event.

With their One Heart One Stroke motto, the SP Dragon boat team swept away three major medals at the Malaysia International Dragon Boat Festival 2011 held in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The boys clinched two golds for the Men's Junior Under-23 Open (22-Crew) and the Junior Under-23 Mixed (12-Crew). A silver medal was also in their hands for the Men's Junior Under-23 Open (12-Crew).

During the first season of POL-ITE Games played between the polytechnics and the ITE, our SP sports teams turned in astounding performances and clinched top positions which included Dragonboat, Chinese Chess, Wei Qi, Volleyball and Bowling (Simplex, Doubles and Team categories). The second season of POL-ITE which ended recently saw more SP teams clinching the championship. The Squash Team came in first for both the men's and women's categories. In Badminton, Team SP came in first for the Women's while the Men's team took third place. Also in top position was the SP team in Men's Table Tennis.

SP Teams also took part in an invitation matches played against tertiary institutions. For Tchoukball, the Men's Team took top placing while the women's team fought courageously to take the second position. The Handball Team took the top position.

We Are The Champions

A Long-running SP Legacy

The Best Table Tennis Team

Those guys scored the highest glory ever for SP Table Tennis. The men’s team clinched the championship after beating NUS 3-2 at the Inter Varsity Polytechnic Games 2011/12.

Congratulations guys! Look out for a feature story on the team in the next edition of SPirit.
When I was a student back in 1983, studies was my focus and CCA was a luxury that few indulged in. When I returned to SP in 1996 as a lecturer, I considered myself fortunate to be able to not just teach but also indulge in physical competitions with my students as well as those from other institutions. The variety of sports that I had participated easily outnumbers all my toes!

If I could turn back time, CCAs would definitely be a part of my routine as an SP student. That would have made my campus life more colourful. Back then, we were trained to be work ready. Remember, SP’s motto is “To Serve With Skills”. However, a holistic education is one that provides both soft and hard skills.

SP today is never a dull campus and it prepares our students to be not just work ready but life ready and world ready too.

Fifteen years have passed and not a day goes by with the feeling that stepping into SP means work. The exuberance of our campus life reminds me that although I draw a salary, this is not a job but a passion. I believe there is another fifteen great years ahead for me before I consider retirement. My body is a little battered and my legs have slowed (yes, I’m aging!) but the SP spirit in me burns even brighter and soars even higher.

To my fellow lecturers ... do take advantage of the healthy lifestyle available to us and our students. Find some time to enjoy the work environment which will soothe your spirit and enhance your mental and physical health. We have a beautiful gym, a nice pool and plenty of greenery. Now, there’s the Butterfly Sanctuary and EcOasis to wow us. Even if you are a nerd, you will become fitter both physically and mentally.

For our male students, trust me. The less than popular NAPFA test would be a breeze rather than a chore if you live the environment that is SP. All of you should enjoy your youth and live with no regrets during your three years here. Put on a smile each day as you make your way to your second home in your favourite SP tee.

Frederick James Francis lectures at the Singapore Maritime Academy. He has represented SP in more than a dozen sports and captained the bowling, darts, carrom and soccer staff teams. He regularly competes in triathlons and has completed three ironmen races in Singapore.

Fred also serves on various professional bodies and is the Founding Commodore of the Youth Skipper Flotilla and the current President of The Singapore Nautical Institute. He was the manager of the SP Students Soccer team for ten years and led them to victory in 2004 in the SR Nathan Cup. He was also the Club Advisor for the Singapore Maritime Academy Club, the SP Photography Club and the SP Environmental Club. The affable lecturer has written seven books, including his memoirs, Diary of a Sailor, and Maritime Heritage of Singapore, co-written with our former President S R Nathan.
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LILIAN LI
2nd Year - Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management